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wholly destroy plants in some instances, must have an enervating influence where it does not wholly destroy, and this would naturally be exhibited in shortening the life of the tree.

The climate of Alaska had the same favoring influences we found in Great Britain. The warm sea of Japan flowed against its southeastern face, along which the trees referred to were found. The atmosphere was always moist, and severe weather almost unknown. At Sitka, in lat  $57^{\circ}$ , as much as 100 inches of rain had fallen in a single year. The harbor was rarely frozen; boats came in and went out at all times of the year. There were some winters when no ice of any consequence was seen. These were circumstances favorable to longevity in trees.

Mr. Meehan concluded by remarking that Dr. Lindley had said somewhere that his researches had failed to show that there was any period of duration of life set for any tree, and that if circumstances favored there seemed no reason why trees might not live for an indefinite period, and, therefore, arguments offered in connection with the "wearing out of varieties," based on what is called the "natural life of a tree," had little force. Mr. Meehan believed his observations on the longevity of trees on the Pacific confirmed Dr. Lindley's views. At any rate, there seemed nothing phenomenal in the age of the *Sequoia gigantea*, as other species partook of similar longevity to a great extent.

Prof. Angelo Heilprin was elected Curator, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Charles F. Parker.

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OCTOBER 9.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The Council reported the appointment of Prof. Angelo Heilprin as Actuary to the Curators, or Curator-in-charge.

*Mineralogical Notes.*—Dr. LEIDY exhibited a large crystal of topaz, from Mursinsk, Siberia. It is pale blue, with perfect termination, and weighs three pounds three ounces. He also exhibited large cut specimens of white topaz and rich green beryl, which had met with a curious accident. The two, in unpacking, had been violently struck together, and the former had been broken through the middle so as to exhibit a perfect cleavage.

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OCTOBER 16.

Mr. THOS. MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirty-seven persons present.